

The God of Truth – The Living God  
Deut. 4:32-40; 5:23-29

Introduction

- A. These passages remind us that one of the greatest truths of all time is that God has revealed Himself. He did not write about Himself in the sky, although He could have done that, but revealed Himself to certain individuals, then to the Jewish people, and then in the fullness of revelation in the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible is the inspired record.
- B. Among all the truths that we know by revelation – the greatest of all has to do with the infinite and triune person of God – His attributes – His wondrous plan for His creation – and the grace of redemption.
- C. An important part of revelation is how God has revealed Himself to us by use of significant names – in the text He speaks of Himself as "The Living God."

I. The Explanation of the LORD as "The Living God."

But the LORD (Yahweh) is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king. . . . Jer. 10:10

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. Matt. 16:16

Comment: God has given Himself this title of "The Living God" to enable us to understand Who He is. At least three great truths are emphasized.

1. He is the LORD (Yahweh) the Covenant Redeemer of infinite resources.
2. He is living and active in history – glorious in His power and grace
3. He is developing His plan with and for His people.

II. The Instruction Found in the Title "The Living God."

A. Regarding Joshua and the entrance into the land of Canaan.

And Joshua said ... Come hither and hear the words of the LORD your God... Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you, and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites .... Joshua 3:9,10

Comment: This was a crucial moment in the history of Israel. God had given the promise to Abraham, many years before, that He would give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants. And now the day had arrived for them to enter the land. This was not the first time they had come to the border of Canaan. Some forty years before the scouting parties had told of giants in the land with fortified cities and had so discouraged the people they refused to believe God and enter in. (Num. 13,14)

But now Joshua asks them to trust God and enter the land believing that God would keep His Word and display His power. The Book of Joshua is an inspired record of how God did Just that!

B. Regarding David and the evaluation of Goliath.

And David spake to the men that stood by him ... who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God? ... This Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. I Sam. 17:26,36

Comment: While everyone else was afraid of Goliath because of his size, David immediately realized the issue was not physical but spiritual. Since Goliath had defied God – anyone who would trust God could overcome him – because God would give that person the victory. These verses uncover our common tendency to look only on the physical – and then to be discouraged.

C. Regarding the Christian – the Church and evangelism.

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart. II Cor. 3:3

Comment: In this passage Paul described his understanding of the Great Commission. The Lord Jesus said, "Go into all the world - preach - baptize - teach - and I will be with you." (Matt. 28)

Here Paul is showing how the Lord had been with him as he had preached at Corinth and the Holy Spirit worked in the heart of those to whom he ministered. As Paul prayed, prepared, and preached – God worked to carry out His will.

D. Regarding the Christian – the Church and separation from sin.

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God, as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord .... II Cor. 6:16,17

Comment: Because we belong to God and not to Satan and the world system – we must make the choices necessary to live in harmony with that separation in how we live. This simply means that we may not allow ourselves to be characterized by the priorities, goals, methods, pleasures and religions of the world.

We belong to the One Who has unlimited resource, Who is active in history developing His plan with and for His people. The privilege is overwhelming. We must surrender to Him. We must lay aside the trivia of our life and our unbelief and learn to cooperate with Him. We are a part of His Church. If we will do His will – for His glory – He will work in and with us.

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